THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) It has been observed by National Thermal Power Corporation that improvement in coal quality results in lesser coal consumption but at the same time requires additional cost. The reduction in cost of generation in a particular project depends on the level of increase in cost of coal against the level of decrease in coal consumption.

Power generation and consumption in Assam

4922. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state the details of power generation and consumption in the State of Assam during each of the last five years and till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : The details of electricity generation and energy and peak availability from all sources for consumption in the State of Assam during the last 5 years *i.e.* 1998-99 to 2002-2003 are given as under :—

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
Own Generation (MU)	939.0	920.0	1063.0	990.0	884.0
Energy Availability (MU)	2799.2	2918.4	3332.8	3425.2	3349.0
Peak Met (MW)	514.0	556.0	579.0	618.0	589.0

Hydel power potential

4923. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is not able to exploit even 25 per cent of its hydel potential;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken for maximizing hydel power potential utilization in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 17% of the assessed hydro potential has been exploited and 6% is under development. Thus, 77% of the hydro power potential is yet to be exploited. The constraints which have affected hydro development are :